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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,503	11/28/2003	Bernard Girault	H310829USCOM	9090
28079	7590 04/05/2005	EXAMINER		
	LAFLEUR HENDER	SHAW, ELIZABETH ANNE		
PO BOX 1045	20 KING STREET WES 5, LCD 1	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
HAMILTON,	ON L8N 3R4	3644		
CANADA			DATE MAILED: 04/05/2009	5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

		Applicat	ion No.	Applicant(s)				
Office Action Summary		10/722,5	603	GIRAULT, BERNARD				
		Examine	r	Art Unit				
		Elizabeth	A. Shaw	3644	•			
The Period for Re	e MAILING DATE of this communicate ply	tion appears on th	e cover sheet with the c	correspondence ad	ldress			
THE MAIL - Extensions after SIX (6) - If the period - If NO period - Failure to re Any reply re	ENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR ING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICA of time may be available under the provisions of 3 in MONTHS from the mailing date of this communic for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days for reply is specified above, the maximum statute only within the set or extended period for reply will, decived by the Office later than three months after an adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	TION. 7 CFR 1.136(a). In no enation. ays, a reply within the starty period will apply and we by statute, cause the ap	vent, however, may a reply be tin tutory minimum of thirty (30) day vill expire SIX (6) MONTHS from plication to become ABANDONE	nely filed s will be considered timel the mailing date of this c D (35 U.S.C. § 133).				
Status								
1)⊠ Res	1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2005.							
2a)⊠ This	This action is FINAL . 2b) This action is non-final.							
	Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the ments is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.							
Disposition o	f Claims							
4a) 0 5)	 ✓ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. ✓ Claim(s) 1-3 and 7 is/are rejected. ✓ Claim(s) 4-6, 8 is/are objected to. 							
Application P	apers							
9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.								
10) ☐ The	10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.							
Appl	Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).							
	acement drawing sheet(s) including the oath or declaration is objected to by	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	- · · ·	-	• •			
Priority unde	r 35 U.S.C. § 119							
 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. 								
Attachment(s)								
	eferences Cited (PTO-892)		4) Interview Summary	(PTO-413)				
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)			Paper No(s)/Mail Da	ate	0.450)			
	Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO)	D/2R/08)	5) Notice of Informal P 6) Other:	atent Application (P10	J-13Z)			

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Simpson (430,303). Simpson shows a harness for a race horse having a backengaging tree A with an arched body shaped to fit across a horse's back. The body A having a pair of laterally spaced fork members (unlabeled) projecting downwardly from opposite sides of the arched body to extend down on opposite sides of the horse's body, see figure 2. The fork members capable of being independently flexible and shaped to conform to the horse's back, col. 1, lines 42-44. A girth strap assembly C is attached to the back-engaging tree A and having shaft attachments (between L and N) on opposite sides thereof and below the back-engaging tree for attaching the shafts of a sulky thereto. The fork members having the inner edges resting at least 8 of the relevant vertebrae of the horse's back when in use. The attached sulky (not shown having a pair of laterally spaced forwardly projecting shafts with front end portions attached to the shaft attachments of the harness, see figure 1.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-6 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed Jan. 12, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The saddle of Simpson, though shown as having two girths, would be usable if only one of the girths were engaged. This being the case, the pair of laterally spaced independently resiliently deflectable spring members would be able to more freely flex and conform to the shape of the horse's back.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth A. Shaw whose telephone number is 571-272-6908. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 9:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teri Luu can be reached on 703-305-7421. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Elizabeth A. Shaw

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Examiner Art Unit 3644

March 31, 2005

TERI PHAM LUU SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER